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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 530
By Buttry

A RESOLUTION To honor the Bearden High School Boys' Soccer
Team on winning the 2001 Class AAA State
Soccer Championship.

WHEREAS, Soccer is a demanding sport, requiring great athleticism, quickness and agility; these characteristics have made soccer the most popular sport throughout the world, and have gained for it many participants and spectators in this country over the past several decades; and

WHEREAS, The Bearden High School Bulldog Boys' Soccer team has shown itself to be a force to be reckoned with in Tennessee High School Soccer, having recently won the Class AAA State Soccer Championship by defeating a powerful Brentwood Bruins team 1-0 in the SemiFinals and upending defending Class AAA Champion and six-time winner since 1993, the Germantown Houston Mustangs 1-0 to clinch the Class AAA Championship; and

WHEREAS, This year's Bulldog team, superbly guided by Coach Eric Turner, began its season without the services of eight graduating starters; after losing a season opener, the Bulldogs went on to compile a 21-1-2 record; and

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WHEREAS, Among the highlights of the semi-final game against Brentwood was Victor Upshaw's goal on a rebound early in the first half; Noah Elliot, Nick Spahr, Ed Bayer, Manuel Garcia, Derek Radcliffe, Paul Myers-Davis, Matt Herbstritt and Tyler Johnson were essential elements in the Bulldogs' defensive-oriented strategy, enabling the team to control the middle of the field and deny break-aways; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Haney, Demetrius Donald and Brian Colquitt kept the pressure on during the waning minutes of play; Goal Keeper Brian Crunk, playing with a cast on his right wrist, stopped all 17 Bruin shots, rounding out a stellar team effort that made the single first-half goal decisive; and

WHEREAS, Brian Crunk continued his tenacious defense of the Bulldog goal in the finals against Germantown Houston, including one diving stop of a seemingly certain Mustang score in the final minutes; the Bearden defense was able to shut down a Germantown Houston offense that had scored eight goals in its semifinal match with Warren County; and

WHEREAS, The Bulldog offense exerted tremendous pressure, outshooting the Mustangs 12-8, but couldn't score until the 6:56 mark of the second half; at that point Tournament Most Valuable Player, Taylor Haney, scored on a pass from Derek Radcliffe; and

WHEREAS, The Bulldogs' championship is the first by a Knoxville Interscholastic League school since Farragut's 1987 win and the first by a Knox-area school since the 1998 Lenoir City championship; the victory says volumes about the character and determination of Coach Turner's team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby congratulate Coach Eric Turner and the Bearden High School Bulldog Boys' Soccer team upon winning the 2001 Class AAA State Soccer Championship, and extend our heartiest wishes to the coach and each team member for every success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.